

State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
HRI # \_\_\_\_\_  
Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_  
NRHP Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_  
Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 2 Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) N-220

**P1. Other Identifier:** Technical Services Building

**\*P2. Location:** ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

**\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad** San Francisco North, Calif.

**Date:** 1995

**\*a. County** Santa Clara

**\*c. Address** 725 De France Avenue

**City** Moffett Field

**Zip** 94035

**\*e. Other Locational Data:**

**\*P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

Building N-220 is a two-story rectangular building located on De France Avenue. It has a concrete foundation, exposed concrete walls, and a flat roof. The building's massing is simple and ornamental detail is minimal. This building features simple, flat, horizontal concrete bands that run across each façade. The bands articulate the first and second floors and give a definite horizontality to the building. The building has three over three metal awning windows that are sandwiched between the concrete bands. These windows appear in sets of four except at the north façade. Each set of windows is separated by concrete piers with grooves that align with the window mullions. The building's main entry is emphasized with a simple concrete awning with rounded corners. The entry doors are aluminum storefront and are not original to the building. The north façade has a pair of horizontal rolling sectional metal doors that are two stories in height. The doors have ribbon glazing that aligns with the windows on both the first and second floor. A corrugated metal shed with a low-slope shed roof is attached on the east side. This shed has two overhead doors on the east side and two steel doors on both the north and south sides. It is 37,900 sq. ft.

This building appears to be in fair condition.

**\*P3b. Resource Attributes:** (list attributes and codes) (HP8) -- Industrial; (HP39) -- Research Support

**\*P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other

P5a. Photo



**P5b. Photo:** (view and date)  
View of west façade, (8/12/05)

**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** 1940

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**  
United States of America as represented by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**\*P8. Recorded by:**  
Page & Turnbull, Inc.  
724 Pine Street  
San Francisco, CA 94108

**\*P9. Date Recorded:** 08/12/05

**\*P10. Survey Type:**  
Reconnaissance

**\*P11. Report Citation:** Lori Neff, Department of Parks and Recreation – Historic Resources Inventory "Bldg. N220, Technical Services Machine Shop," (1995).

**\*Attachments:** ☐ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record  
☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record  
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

Page 2 of 2

\*NRHP Status Code 5D3

\*Resource Name or # N-220

- B1. Historic name: Technical Services Building  
B2. Common name: Technical Services Machine Shop  
B3. Original Use: Machine shop B4. Present use: Machine shop

\*B5. **Architectural Style:** Moderne with 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Industrial influences

\*B6. **Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)  
1940 – Date of Construction; 1976 – Interior alterations

\*B7. **Moved?** ☒No ☐Yes ☐Unknown **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Original Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*B8. **Related Features:**

Significant architectural features include the concrete exterior, sliding hangar doors, steel-sash windows, and open, utilitarian interior.

B9a. Architect: National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) Engineers

b. Builder:

\*B10. **Significance:** Theme Post-War Science and Space Exploration Area NASA Ames Research Center

Period of Significance 1940-1958 Property Type Research Support Facility Applicable Criteria 1 & 3

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity)

Building N-220 is one of the oldest buildings at the Ames Research Center and was crucial in manufacturing the elements utilized within the center's early experiments. Currently, this building still plays an important role and houses "The Development Machining and Electromechanical Instrumentation Branch," which is a branch of the Aeronautics and Space Flight Hardware Development Division. Machining, instrumentation, mechanical inspection, electronic, and CAD/CAM services occur at this facility, which primarily develops prototype hardware such as experimental scientific apparatus for shuttle or airborne missions, aerospace wind tunnel models, facility modifications, and biosensors. Building N-220 was one of several research and support buildings built between 1940 and 1958. Founded in 1939, the Ames Research Center was the second aeronautic research facility built for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA). This research center was vital in the development of the field of aeronautical research and science. Along with new research facilities, such as wind tunnels and testing facilities, several support buildings were constructed for the staff, including offices, machine shops, manufacturing facilities, and laboratories. At this time, these research and support buildings were rendered in an architectural vocabulary, which allowed for a variety of uses and a cohesive campus setting. These buildings were most often, one and two stories in height with concrete structural systems, unpainted concrete exteriors (with scored concrete detailing), and steel or wood-sash awning or hopper windows. They expressed Moderne architectural details with their scored exteriors, tripartite concrete panels (located between windows and doors), concrete entry canopies, and rectilinear configurations. Additionally, these buildings exhibited influences of 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Industrial architecture with their smooth, concrete exteriors and steel-sash awning and hopper windows. Despite alterations to the interior, the building still maintains its original usage and feeling as an early machine shop and fabrication facility. Building N-220 possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) (HP8) -- Industrial; (HP39) -- Research Support

\*B12. **References:**

- Lori Neff, *Department of Parks and Recreation – Historic Resources Inventory "Bldg. N220, Technical Services Machine Shop,"* (1995).
- Edwin Hartman, *Adventures in Research: A History of Ames Research Center, 1940 – 1965* (NASA SP-4302, 1970).
- Elizabeth A. Muenger, *Searching the Horizon: A History of Ames Research Center, 1940 – 1976* (NASA SP-4304, 1985).
- Glenn Burgos, *Atmosphere of Freedom: Sixty Years at the NASA Ames Research Center* (NASA SP-4314, 2000).

B13. **Remarks:**

In 1995, Section 110 survey documentation of the NASA Ames Research Center was submitted to the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

\*B14. **Evaluator:** Rich Sucre, Page & Turnbull, Inc.  
724 Pine Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

\*Date of Evaluation: 10/18/2005

(This space reserved for official comments.)

Sketch Map

